

## (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
18 December 2003 (18.12.2003)

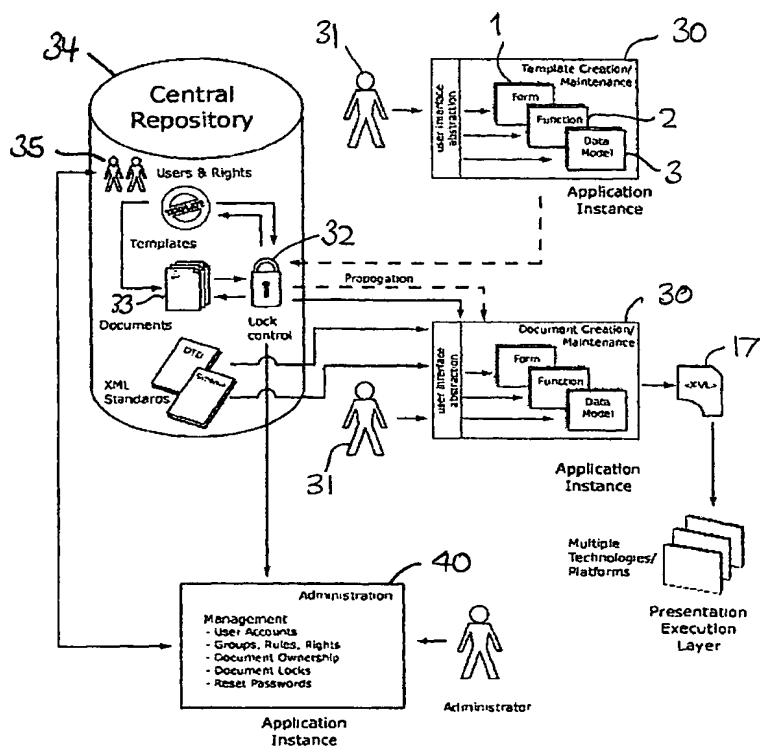
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 03/105022 A2**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06F 17/24**
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB03/02180
- (22) International Filing Date: 20 May 2003 (20.05.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
0212934.4 6 June 2002 (06.06.2002) GB
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **FOCUS BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LIMITED [GB/GB]**; Cranford House, Kenilworth Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 6RQ (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **CARR, Ian [GB/GB]**; 7 Pear Tree Drive, Sedgeberrow, Nr. Evesham WR11 6GQ (GB). **HARDING, Darren [GB/GB]**; 21 Reservoir Road, Solihull B92 8BA (GB). **SLOAN,**
- Michael [GB/GB]; 4 Hailey Croft, Chinnor, Oxon OX9 4TS (GB).
- (74) Agent: **CHARIG, Raymond, J.**; Eric Potter Clarkson, Park View House, 58 The Ropewalk, Nottingham NG1 5DD (GB).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: ELECTRONIC DATA CAPTURE AND VERIFICATION



**(57) Abstract:** Apparatus for automatically building an electronic form for presentation to a user during a data capture process segregates the data capture intent behind the form from the presentation and execution of the form to a data capture user. In this way, the data capture process, including generation of the form and display of user input prompts, can be carried out on any computing platform independent of the system used to generate a data capture definition file that specifies the intent of the data capture requirements. The specification of data elements required during data capture, each having a type specification and a logical relationship relative to other data elements in a hierarchical structure are defined in a data capture definition file in a predetermined format. A data capture process executes the data capture definition file and automatically generates a plurality of visual displays for presentation to a user, each input screen comprising a plurality of user input areas corresponding to the data elements and physically positioned on the screen in a manner corresponding to the defined logical hierarchical structure.